

## Illinois Governor Accepts Campus Security Task Force Recommendations

Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich has accepted the recommendations of the Campus Security Task Force (CSTF), a group charged with developing and implementing comprehensive, coordinated policies and training programs to deter, prevent and significantly enhance the response to and recovery from major public safety incidents at the more than 180 institutions of higher learning in Illinois. In its *Report to the Governor*, the task force focused on three issue areas: response, prevention and mental health and legal issues. Examples of the task force's recommendations include the following:

- That colleges and universities ensure that agencies responsible for emergency response be trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS);
- That interoperable communications among response agencies be a central focus of emergency planning; and
- That colleges and universities provide training to faculty on recognizing the signs of mental illness and distribute mental health awareness and prevention information.

The *Campus Security Task Force Report to the Governor* also recommends two legislative proposals supported by Governor Blagojevich: the Campus Security Enhancement Act, which would require all higher education institutions to develop campus violence prevention plans and the Campus Security Enhancement Grant Program, which would make \$25 million available for projects designed to enhance campus security. The CSTF was comprised of individuals representing over 75 state agencies and organizations from areas such as emergency response, mental health and higher education.

### Related Links:

- [Governor's Office Press Release](#)
- [Campus Security Task Force Report to the Governor](#)